

IPW



03500.017881

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Hiroshi SHIMODA	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/772,269	)	
	:	
Filed: February 6, 2004	)	
	:	
For: METHOD OF PRODUCING	)	
PHOTOVOLTAIC ELEMENT	:	May 11, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the Japanese documents, together with English-language abstracts, are enclosed.

The Japanese documents and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,166,918 and 4,451,970 are discussed at page 5 of the specification.

U.S. Patent No. 5,320,723 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Japan 2921802; and U.S. Patent No. 6,221,685 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Japan 11-233802.

### FORMAL MATTERS

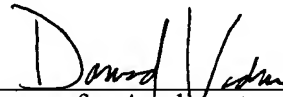
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Office Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

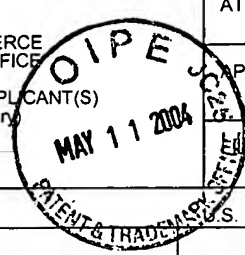


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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.017881</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/772,269</b>	
Date submitted to PTO: May 11, 2004			APPLICANT <b>Hiroshi SHIMODA</b>			
FILING DATE <b>February 6, 2004</b>			GROUP <b>Unassigned</b>			



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	4,166,918	09/04/1979	Nostrand et al.	136	89		
	4,451,970	06/05/1984	Izu et al.	29	574		
	5,320,723	06/14/1994	Kawakami	204	140		
	6,221,685 B1	04/24/2001	Ichinose et al.	438	48		
	6,261,862 B1	07/17/2001	Hori et al.	438	96		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT	
	2921802	07/19/1999	Japan			Abstract	
	11-233802	08/27/1999	Japan			Abstract	
	2000-49370	02/18/2000	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1